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Title : Need to grant funds from National Relief Fund/National Calamity Contingency Fund to Andhra Pradesh for rehabilitation of people affected by cyclone 'Nilam'.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Madam Speaker, the State of Andhra Pradesh has been severely affected by cyclone Neelam, 19 districts have been affected out of which 5 districts have been severely affected and farmers have suffered huge losses. More than 8 lakh hectares of crops have been damaged; especially paddy, cotton, chilly, maize and 10 other varieties of crops have been severely damaged. The loss estimated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is to the tune of Rs. 1,410 crore. In fact, the cotton farmers in my constituency have been severely affected and their entire produce has been badly affected. The quality of cotton has deteriorated so much that the CCI is unwilling to purchase cotton from them.

We want the Government of India, especially, the Textile Ministry to instruct the CCI to purchase whatever cotton is available or whatever quality is available because we need to come to the rescue of the farmers because what we give to the farmers in the form of input subsidy is hardly anything. We give only Rs.6000 per hectare and the farmer spends more than ten times that amount. That is the loss that the farmer incurs on every crop. So, we need to ensure that let the CCI or the FCI should procure every produce, be it paddy or cotton, and whatever the quality is. That is one of our requests.

Our another request is that we want the Government of India to immediately send a Central team and ensure through the National Relief Fund or National Calamity Contingency Fund a sum of Rs.1,500 crore is released immediately to Andhra Pradesh so that the amount can be given to the farmers and that we can rescue farmers.